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Title : Need to establish a Central University in Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government had proposed to set up 14 World Class Universities aiming to attain world class standards, during the 11th Five Year Plan period across the country. The Expert Committee constituted by the University Grants Commission has also prepared the Concept Paper and identified 14 States and locations for establishing 14 Central Universities. This was confirmed by the replies given by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in Parliament during Question Hour on various dates from the year 2009 to 2011.

Sir, of the 14 States selected for setting up World Class Universities, Tamil Nadu State is one among them. In Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore city has been identified as the location for the establishment of this type of university. Eminent scholars, students' community, industrialists and international information technology firms are concentrating in and around Coimbatore to expand their field of activities. The delay in setting up of the World Class University hampers the highly innovative and technological expectations of the youth and scholars of Tamil Nadu.

Further, Coimbatore is one of the first and foremost cities in Tamil Nadu in accommodating the young and energetic youth from all over India by having so many educational institutions and industries and the setting up of such a university in Coimbatore will go a long way in changing the face of South India. In the 11th Plan period, the Central Government is on record that it has allocated Rs. 1,750 crore for the establishment of these universities. It is surprising that even though the 11th Five Year Plan period has come to an end by 2011-12, no positive steps have been taken to even identify the land in Coimbatore city in all these four years.

Therefore, necessary steps for the setting up of the World Class Central University in Coimbatore city of Tamil Nadu, in consultation with the State Government, should be taken without further loss of time.